

Lincoln, NE -- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry commented today on the U.S. Senate passing its version of health care legislation.

"While Americans rightly enjoyed the holidays with their families, the U.S. Senate passed its version of health care legislation on Christmas Eve. Many Nebraskans may soon ask 'What just happened?'

"Americans deserve an open policymaking process that thoughtfully delivers a stronger health care system. As it appears, this bill, which is very complex, costly, and filled with special deals and significant tax implications, does not address the heart of escalating health care costs. Rather, it substantially relies on cost shifting and could significantly increase insurance costs for many, including younger working families.

"As I have said, any true reform must meet the three-fold test of reducing costs, improving health outcomes, and protecting vulnerable persons. Comprehensive reform should focus on the underlying drivers of rising health care costs for the system to remain sustainable. While it is essential to address problems such as pre-existing conditions, we can do much better for Nebraska's families and the American people. For a fuller perspective of my position on this important issue, please read the Fort Report titled "The House Health Care Bill" located at Fortenberry.house.gov ."

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